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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 002721

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/09/2015

TAGS: [CY](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: EUR DAS KENNEDY DISCUSSES CYPRUS IN ANKARA, MAY 3

REF: NICOSIA 0728

(U) Classified by Ambassador Eric Edelman, E.O. 12958 reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Summary: In May 3 meetings with Turkish MFA and NSC officials, Turkish parliamentarians, and press, DAS Kennedy emphasized that the Greek Cypriots need to lay out their objections to the Annan Plan with clarity and finality. At the same time, Turkey must search for ways to promote overall Cyprus settlement. MFA officials said restrictions on UNFICYP will soon be lifted, Ledra Street and Zodia will be opened soon, but Strovilia will have to wait "for another day." The GOT is concerned about Greek Cypriot court actions in property cases (reftel). Kennedy urged that the Turkish Cypriots not reject EU aid if de-linked from trade, and consider opening Famagusta under some auspices if there were a carefully structured proposal. NSC SecGen Alpogan said the NSC aims to recommend to the GOT that Turkey launch a proposal to get the parties back to the negotiating table. End Summary.

Kennedy: Lack of Settlement A Problem in the Long Run  
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12. (C) U/S Tuygan told Kennedy Turkey is prepared to move forward on Cyprus if the Greek Cypriots spell out their objections to the Annan Plan. Kennedy replied that the Greek Cypriot idea of expressing "areas of concern" does not appear capable of producing the clarity and finality the SYG requires. Tuygan said an "extraneous issue like Cyprus" should not cloud Turkish/EU relations. Kennedy agreed, but reminded Tuygan of the importance of signing the Ankara Agreement extension protocol before October 3 and that, in the long run, lack of a Cyprus settlement would sour Turkish/EU relations. Kennedy and Ambassador Edelman both assessed as positive the possible role of EU Cyprus special advisor Blomberg as long as the UN kept the negotiating lead.

UNFICYP, Demining, Missing Persons  
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13. (C) DAS Kennedy encouraged Deputy U/S Apakan to move ahead on proposed lifting of restrictions on UNFICYP and on returning Strovilia to the military status quo prior to 2000. The U.S. will work in the UN to get Turkey the credit it deserves for these improvements. Apakan replied Turkey is taking steps to remove the UNFICYP restrictions, including at the Dherinia crossing point. In light of this, Turkey wants references to restrictions excised from the UNSCR text and hopes the report will reflect Turkey's positive moves.

14. (C) Apakan predicted that Ledra Street and the Zodia crossing will be opened "in due time," but Strovilia is "a different case." Acting DDG Bilman added that "Stoivilia will have to wait." Kennedy told both Apakan and National Security Council Secretary General Alpogan she hoped Turkey will move soon on Strovilia. Alpogan called Strovilia "a minor issue" and said the U.S. should not push on it, this only encouraged Greek Cypriot intransigence. Kennedy pointed out the issue was of primary interest to UN, not the Greek Cypriots or the U.S.; in any event, it is in Turkey's and the Turkish Cypriots' interest to resolve it.

15. (C) Apakan also told Kennedy Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots are ready to sign the mine clearing protocol and have so informed UNFICYP. The Turkish Cypriots will request that the final exchange of letters on the demining protocol refer to the prior letter exchange between Talat and the UNSYG. Kennedy welcomed the news and said the U.S. would take this up with DPKO.

16. (C) On missing persons, Apakan complained the Greek Cypriots are trying to take the issue to the COE (NFI); Turkey hopes the UN role will be reinforced. Bilman claimed this is the only forum where both Greek and Turkish Cypriot missing persons are discussed, and accused the Greek Cypriots of trying to "kill" the committee. Kennedy undertook to look into the matter.

Greek Cypriot Property Cases  
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17. (C) Apakan and National Security Council Secretary General Alpogan expressed concern over recent actions by Greek Cypriot courts against Turkish Cypriots living in Greek

Cypriot homes. Apakan said these measures threaten bizonality. The MFA is seeking legal advice about to what extent the EU has authority in the north, where the EU aquis are suspended.

EU Trade/Aid

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18. (C) Kennedy told both Apakan and Alpogan the U.S. will continue to press the EU on trade and aid for the north, but added she is not optimistic about the prospects. The Turkish Cypriots may need to accept de-linking the two; EU Commission staff is running out of money and the aid package is the only potential source of funding. Apakan said Turkey did not like the idea of de-linking; in the event the aid portion were approved, the EU would forget about direct trade.

19. (C) Kennedy suggested to both Apakan and Alpogan that a compromise involving opening the Famagusta port under some auspices might be a "first step" toward direct trade. Apakan noted the Luxembourg Presidency proposed to open it under EU administration and this would leave it open to Greek Cypriot interference. Kennedy granted that any such proposal must be carefully structured, but reiterated this could be a viable first step in trade. Apakan expressed concern about the timing of the proposal; Alpogan merely said "we'll see."

NSC Readyng Proposal to Get Parties Back to the Table

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10. (C) Alpogan expressed deep skepticism that Papadopoulos would make the compromises necessary for overall settlement, and worried that the Greek Cypriot public is becoming more opposed to settlement. Alpogan said he is putting the finishing touches on an "in-house" Cyprus study recommending that Turkey take actions to reaffirm "the moral high ground" it reached after the 2004 referendum. Alpogan declared that Turkey needs "to come forward with ideas" for settlement within an Annan Plan framework and invite the parties back to the negotiating table. Alpogan said this is an NSC project, not a joint project with the MFA, and expressed uncertainty that the MFA would agree with the approach.

11. (C) Kennedy said this is a wise approach that could help Turkey recapture momentum. She said the U.S. is ready to coordinate with Turkey if Turkey can share specifics with us.

12. (C) Comment: Alpogan's forward-leaning proposal will get a cold reception from the MFA and the military, who are still both mired in the "Turkey has already done its part" mentality. End Comment.

13. (U) DAS Kennedy has cleared this message.  
EDELMAN